

**From:** Ben Hall  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 2:58pm  
**Subject:** Re: Public comments ending soon in MS/States settlement

Please do something to make sure that Microsof cannot just walk away from this with their stock two dollars off the mark for a couple of months. I have been in the technology sector for more than seven years and everytime they have encroached on a technology it has turned out to completely stagnate the said area of development. If there was one instance of Microsoft not trying to completely control whatever they touched it would be one thing but I have yet to see a technology that they have not stolen and changed 10% only to then call their own. Thier OS, Web browser, Office Suite, Email products, Hotmail, MSN, and most especially their media player have all been from reverse engineering of other company products. Because of the nature of the business they have the advantage of throwing quaduple the amount of people onto a product to meet the release date of any other company. Although this may not be entirely illegal it does say something about their ethics when it comes to how they interact with others. Never have they released or created an open sourced standard or given people access to products without tying three more of their services into it. If this is not using a Monopoly to encroach into existing markets, I don't know what is. And when I speak of this I do not mean Windows 95 but of thier Operating System released after they were found guilty of Monopolistic practices. Thank you for taking the time to recieve this letter of concern and I hope a just resolution is found.

Sincerely,  
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